Order Now! "The Wuhan Cover-Up" by RFK Jr.!

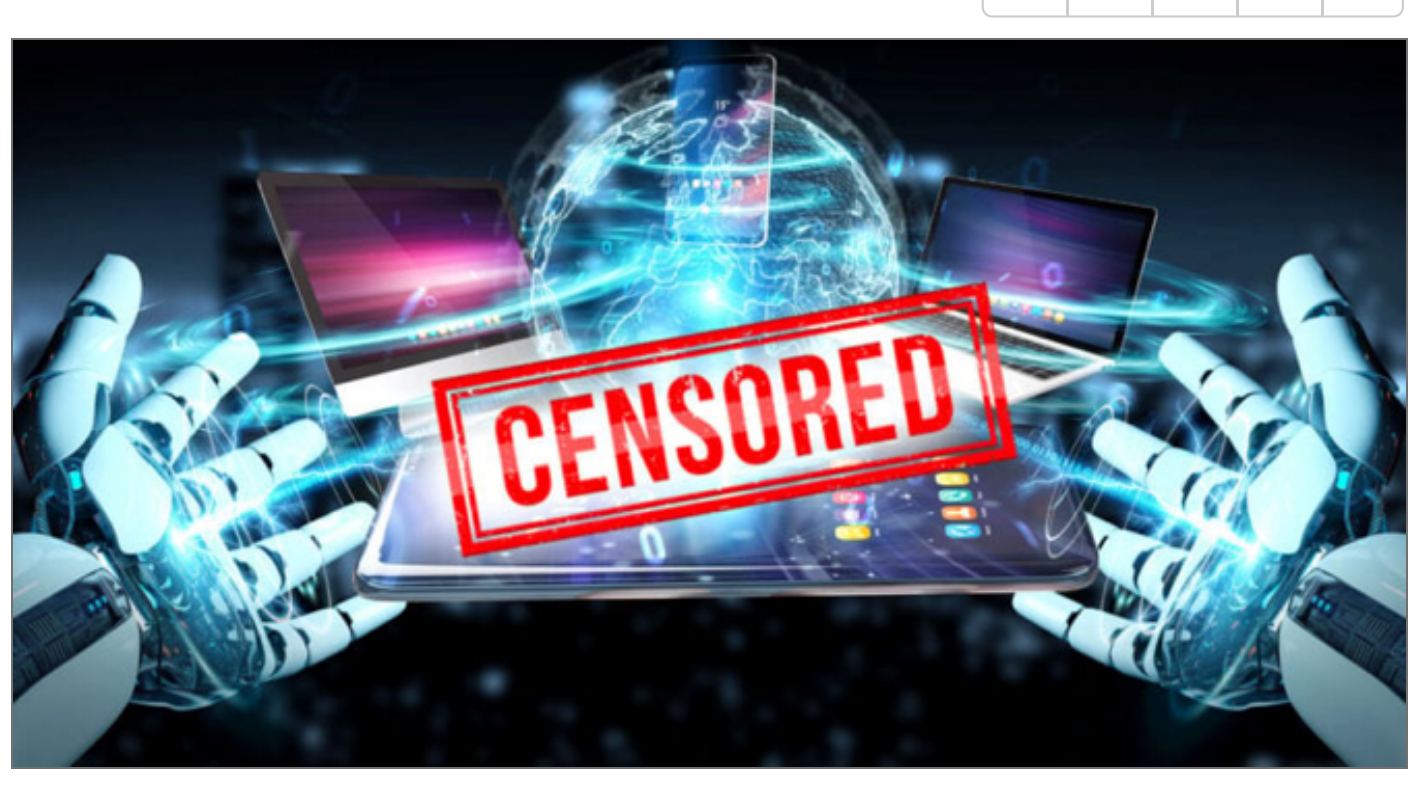
02/08/24 • BIG TECH • NEWS

Biden Administration Funding AI Tools to Censor Americans' Speech

"The purpose of these taxpayer-funded projects is to develop AI-powered censorship and propaganda tools that can be used by governments and Big Tech to shape public opinion," according to a report released this week by the U.S. House Judiciary's Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government.

By Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D.

30



Miss a day, miss a lot. *Subscribe to The Defender's Top News of the Day.* ***It's free.***

The Biden administration is funding research on artificial intelligence (AI) tools to identify and censor "misinformation," "disinformation" and "malinformation" online, according to a U.S. House of Representatives interim report released Monday.

"The purpose of these taxpayer-funded projects is to develop AI-powered censorship and propaganda tools that can be used by governments and Big Tech to shape public opinion," the Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government said Tuesday in a press release.

The report was followed by a contentious hearing before the subcommittee Tuesday that focused on the use of AI for censorship.

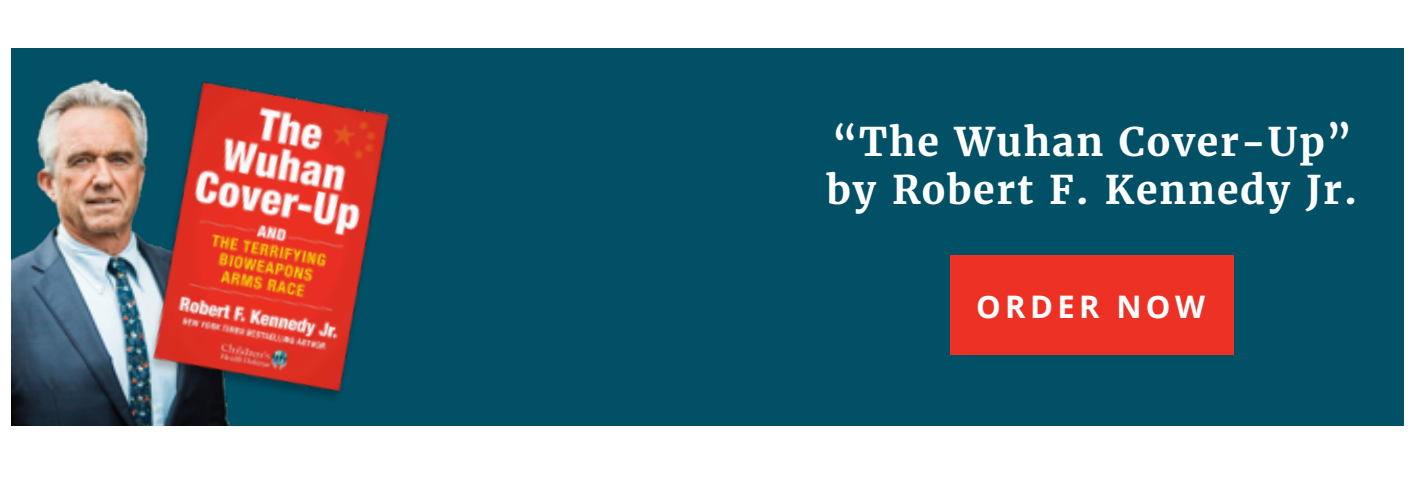
On Monday, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), chair of the subcommittee and the House Judiciary Committee, released the "Amazon Files" on X, formerly known as Twitter. The files contain documents highlighting how the Biden administration exerted pressure on Amazon to censor books critical of COVID-19 vaccines.

The subcommittee's report cites non-public documents and focuses on grants the National Science Foundation (NSF) provided to nonprofit and academic institutions to develop AI tools.

The NSF funded the projects under its "Trust & Authenticity in Communication Systems," part of a larger NSF initiative launched in 2021, that aims to identify "misinformation" and develop "education and training materials" for those with "vulnerabilities to disinformation methods."

According to the report, these tools would allow for faster and more expansive content moderation than can be accomplished by humans. The tools could be made available to social media giants to aid them in efforts to remove non-establishment narratives, such as posts questioning the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

The efforts are part of a reported $38.8 million the NSF spent on "misinformation" efforts during the Biden administration up to November 2022, according to a report published last month by the Foundation for Freedom Online.



"The Wuhan Cover-Up"
by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

ORDER NOW

The new revelations were the subject of debate during Tuesday's hearing, which included testimony from former U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic Norman Eisen, investigative journalist Lee Fang, President and CEO of the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression Greg Lukianoff and Daily Caller News Foundation journalist Katelynn Richardson.

In previous hearings, the subcommittee heard testimony on other aspects of what has been described as the "censorship-industrial complex," including testimony in July 2023 by Children's Health Defense's (CHD) chairman on leave, Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Experts who spoke with The Defender said the latest revelations are a sign the federal government feels it is losing control of the narrative on key issues.

"Social media is one of the best things to ever happen to mankind, because it means now that we are the news," attorney Greg Glaser said.

"Anyone with a popular social media channel can be as influential as a major news network, and that scares the daylights out of the old guard … Predictably, the censors are trying to scare us too by using AI censorship tools," Glaser told The Defender.

During last month's World Economic Forum annual meeting, panelists expressed unease over the legacy media's loss of control over information and public opinion and over the potential of AI to help spread so-called "misinformation" and "disinformation," leading to the election of the "wrong leaders."

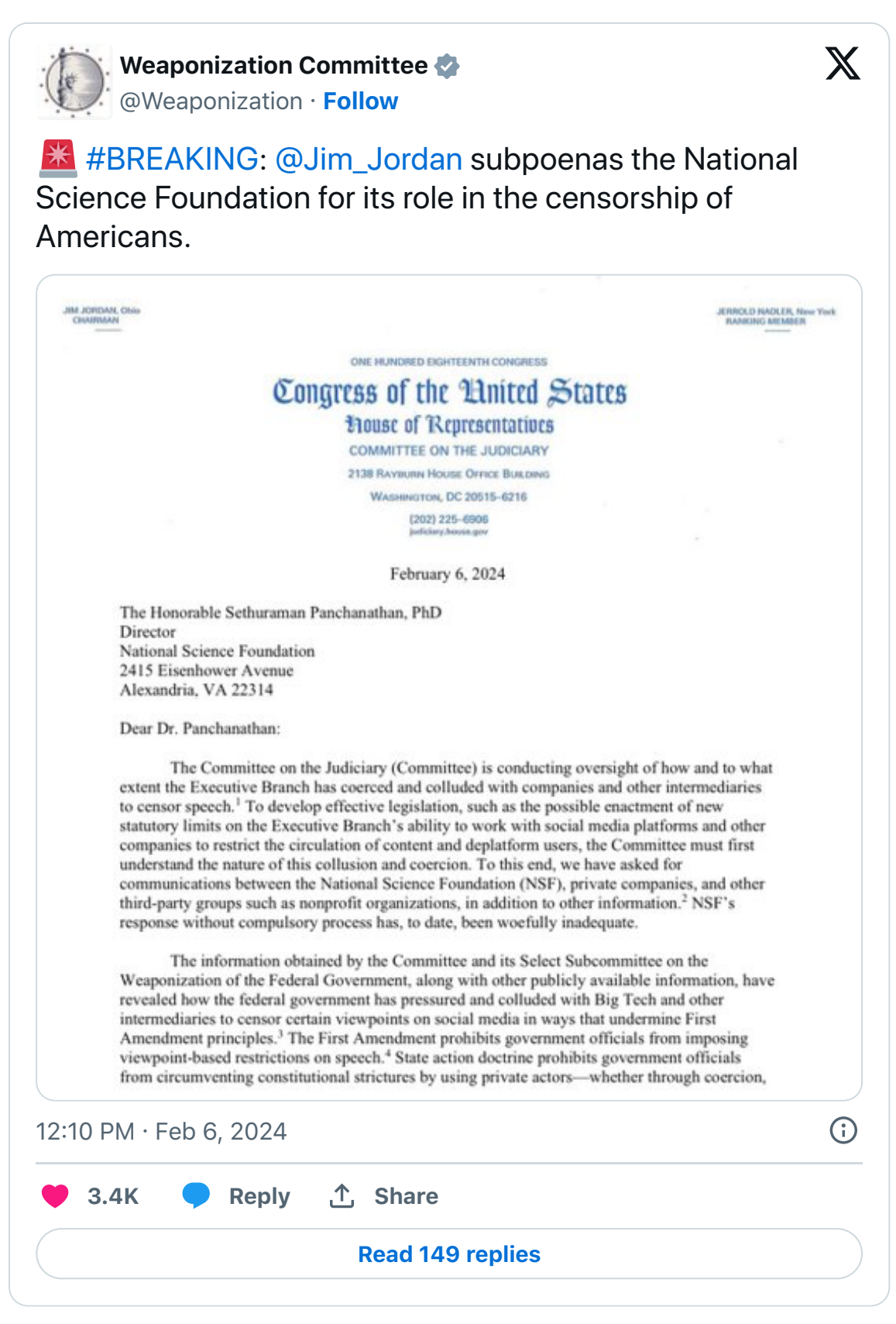
Independent journalist Paul D. Thacker, who previously released "Twitter Files" documents revealing government censorship, said, "Documents continue to come out showing that the federal government has an expansive program across multiple agencies to censor Americans and fund academic research in this area."

"The federal funding for censorship science is most interesting because this research will help the government understand how to censor more effectively while buying off universities so professors won't criticize censorship policies," Thacker said.

Mark Crispin Miller, Ph.D., an author and professor of media studies at New York University whose research focuses on propaganda, told The Defender:

> "While bellowing non-stop, in perfect unison, that Trump poses a clear and present danger of fascism, the 'liberals' backing Biden all throughout the government and media — and Biden himself — have turned a big blind eye to the fascist practices of this administration, since such state and corporate collusion against our free speech rights is a classic sign of fascist rule."

This week's revelations will likely have legal implications for multiple parties. On Tuesday, the House Judiciary Committee subpoenaed NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan, Ph.D., demanding he personally turn over all internal records regarding the restriction or suppression of online content by Feb. 28 at 9 a.m.



Weaponization Committee
@Weaponization · Follow

🚨 #BREAKING: @Jim_Jordan subpoenas the National Science Foundation for its role in the censorship of Americans.

JIM JORDAN, Ohio
CHAIRMAN

JERROLD NADLER, New York
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6216
(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Sethuraman Panchanathan, PhD
Director
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Dr. Panchanathan:

The Committee on the Judiciary (Committee) is conducting oversight of how and to what extent the Executive Branch has coerced and colluded with companies and other intermediaries to censor speech.[1] To develop effective legislation, such as the possible enactment of new statutory limits on the Executive Branch's ability to work with social media platforms and other companies to restrict the circulation of content and deplatform users, the Committee must first understand the nature of this collusion and coercion. To this end, we have asked for communications between the National Science Foundation (NSF), private companies, and other third-party groups such as nonprofit organizations, in addition to other information.[2] NSF's response without compulsory process has, to date, been woefully inadequate.

The information obtained by the Committee and its Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, along with other publicly available information, have revealed how the federal government has pressured and colluded with Big Tech and other intermediaries to censor certain viewpoints on social media in ways that undermine First Amendment principles.[3] The First Amendment prohibits government officials from imposing viewpoint-based restrictions on speech.[4] State action doctrine prohibits government officials from circumventing constitutional strictures by using private actors—whether through coercion,

12:10 PM · Feb 6, 2024

3.4K Reply Share

Read 149 replies

"NSF still has not adequately complied with a request for relevant documents" and is "attempting to stonewall Congressional investigations," according to the interim report.

On Tuesday, the House Judiciary Committee also sued FBI Agent Elvis Chan, claiming he didn't comply with a subpoena regarding Biden administration censorship practices.

The ongoing Murthy et al. v. Missouri et al. lawsuit and previous "Twitter Files" releases have implicated Chan in Biden administration efforts to coerce social media platforms to censor content that opposed its positions on COVID-19 and election interference.

Murthy v. Missouri — previously known as Missouri et al. v. Biden et al., which alleges government violations of First Amendment free speech protections, may itself be affected by this week's revelations, according to STAT News. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to issue a decision in that case by June.

Kennedy et al. v. Biden et al., filed by Kennedy and CHD, makes similar First Amendment claims. It was consolidated with Missouri et al. v. Biden et al. in July 2023.

'Egregious' First Amendment violations

According to the interim report, the Biden administration has pursued "collusion with third-party intermediaries, including universities, non-profits, and businesses, to censor protected speech on social media," in an attempt to sidestep the First Amendment's prohibition of government censorship of speech.

The report described this as an "egregious" violation of the First Amendment. But the report also said human censorship of online content was a slow and incomplete process, due to the cost and manpower limitations of using human content moderators. AI tools can significantly speed up and expand such efforts, the report said.

The report asks:

> "What happens if the censorship is automated and the censors are machines? There is no need for shifts or huge teams of people to identify and flag problematic online speech. AI-driven tools can monitor online speech at a scale that would far outmatch even the largest team of 'disinformation' bureaucrats and researchers. …
>
> "The NSF-funded projects threaten to help create a censorship regime that could significantly impede the fundamental First Amendment rights of millions of Americans, and potentially do so in a manner that is instantaneous and largely invisible to its victims."

Kim Mack Rosenberg, general counsel for CHD, told The Defender these grants "come dangerously close to crossing the line of the government itself engaging in censorship. That taxpayer dollars are paying for these schemes should give everyone pause."

The report names the NSF as "a key player in the 'censorship industrial complex,'" as in recent years, "under the guise of combatting so-called misinformation, NSF has been funding AI-driven tools and other new technologies that can be used to censor or propagandize online speech."

The NSF, established in 1950, long focused on science and engineering. However, according to the report, the agency's mission "has shifted over the years to encompass social and behavioral sciences."

The report specifically highlights the NSF's Convergence Accelerator Grant Program, launched in 2019, which seeks "to bring together multiple disciplines, ideas, approaches and technologies to solve 'national-scale societal challenges' aligned with specific research 'tracks' that 'have the potential for significant national impact.'"

The program has 13 funding tracks, one of which is "Track F," the "Trust & Authenticity in Communication Systems" track, established in 2021. Described by the report as "the Censorship Program," the NSF granted $21 million in funding to this track to "address the manipulation or 'unanticipated negative effects' of communication systems."

In an email cited in the report, NSF staffer Michael Pozmantier, Track F's program manager, described it as the track "focused on combating mis/disinformation."

According to the report, in March 2021, the NSF issued a funding opportunity for Track F, soliciting proposals for "solutions involving AI-powered tools to help Big Tech combat misinformation and provide 'education and training materials' for school children and communities that might 'exhibit different vulnerabilities to disinformation methods.'"

By September 2022, six applicants had received Track F funding for their projects. The report focused on four of these projects: the University of Michigan's WiseDex tool, Meedan's Co-Insights tool, the University of Wisconsin-Madison's CourseCorrect tool and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Search Lit platform.

According to the report, University of Michigan researchers told the NSF the WiseDex tool sought to "develop processes that would have public legitimacy [and] which social media platforms could use for taking enforcement action against misinformation," including a service that would tell platforms which content "deserves enforcement" and how "true" any content item is.

The University of Michigan described WiseDex as a tool policymakers at social media platforms could use to "externaliz[e] the difficult responsibility of censorship." A later presentation described WiseDex as a tool enabling the "scaling-up enforcement of misinformation policies."

Meedan is described in the report as a tool "to counter misinformation online" and "advance the state-of-art in misinformation research," that would leverage its "relationships and experience" with platforms like WhatsApp, Telegram and Signal to build approaches that "identify and limit susceptibility to misinformation" and "pseudoscientific information."

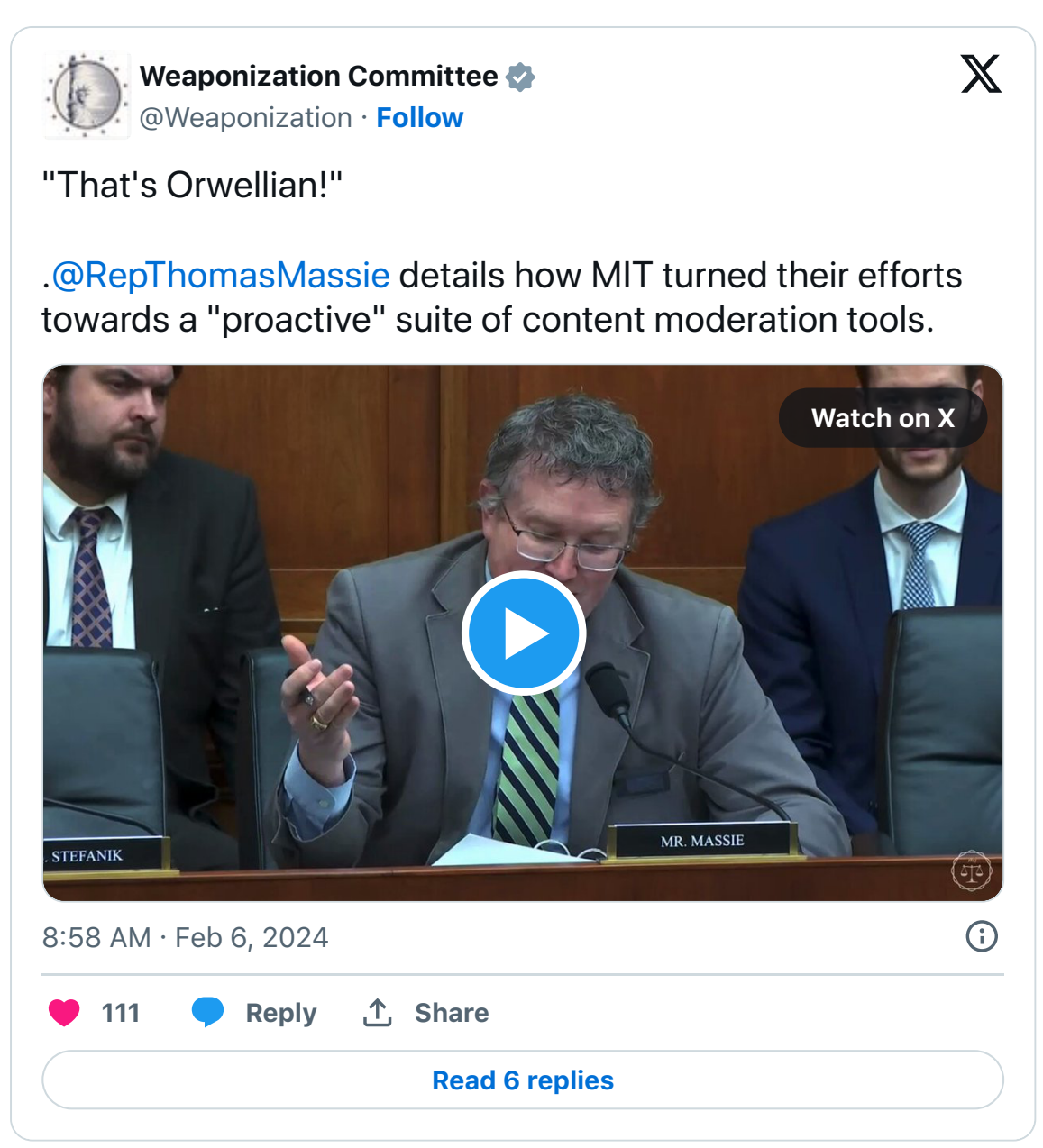
A Meedan pitch to the NSF claimed that it used AI to "monitor 750,000 blogs and media articles daily as well as mine data from the major social media platforms" and that the tool used the "world's best system for matching social media posts to fact-checks."

Scott A. Hale, Ph.D., Meedan's director of research, is quoted in the report as telling NSF in an email that, in his "dream world," Big Tech would be able to develop "automated detection" tools to automatically censor content — and any similar speech.

CourseCorrect was developed as a tool to "empower efforts by journalists, developers, and citizens to fact-check" what was described as "delegitimizing information" about "election integrity and vaccine integrity" on social media, by allowing "fact-checkers to perform rapid-cycle testing of fact-checking messages and monitor[ing] their real-time performance among online communities at risk of misinformation exposure."

The report notes that CourseCorrect, which also used AI and machine learning technologies, was "specifically focused on 'address[ing] two democratic and public health crises facing the U.S.: skepticism regarding the integrity of U.S. elections and hesitancy related to the COVID-19 vaccines.'"

MIT's Search Lit tool sought to develop "effective interventions" which, according to the report, were intended to "educate Americans — specifically, those that the MIT researchers alleged 'may be more vulnerable to misinformation campaigns' — on how to discern fact from fiction online."



Weaponization Committee
@Weaponization · Follow

"That's Orwellian!"

.@RepThomasMassie details how MIT turned their efforts towards a "proactive" suite of content moderation tools.

8:58 AM · Feb 6, 2024

111 Reply Share

Read 6 replies

The communities in question targeted by Search Lit included "conservatives, minorities, and veterans," as well as rural and indigenous communities and older adults, who, according to the report, were viewed as being "uniquely incapable of assessing the veracity of content online" and being susceptible to "dangerous digital content."

The Search Lit research team also highlighted Americans who considered the Constitution and the Bible "sacred," suggesting that such "everyday people" tend to "distrust … journalists and academics" and, accordingly, seek primary sources of information instead of trusting the "professional consensus."

According to the report, the findings "demonstrate that … the 'disinformation' academics understood their work as part of a partisan project; and … the bureaucrats and so-called 'experts' in this space have complete disdain for most of the American population."

One disinformation researcher cited in the report, Renee DiResta of the Stanford Internet Observatory — also implicated in the "Twitter Files" — acknowledged the constitutional murkiness of such practices, saying at a 2021 presentation that there were "[u]nclear legal authorities including very real 1st amendment questions."

"Examples like these illustrate the tremendous sway these so-called 'disinformation' researchers hold over social media platforms and why the federal government often turns to these unaccountable academics when seeking a proxy for their censorship activities," the report states.

RFK Jr. and Brian Hooker's
New Book: "Vax-Unvax"

ORDER NOW

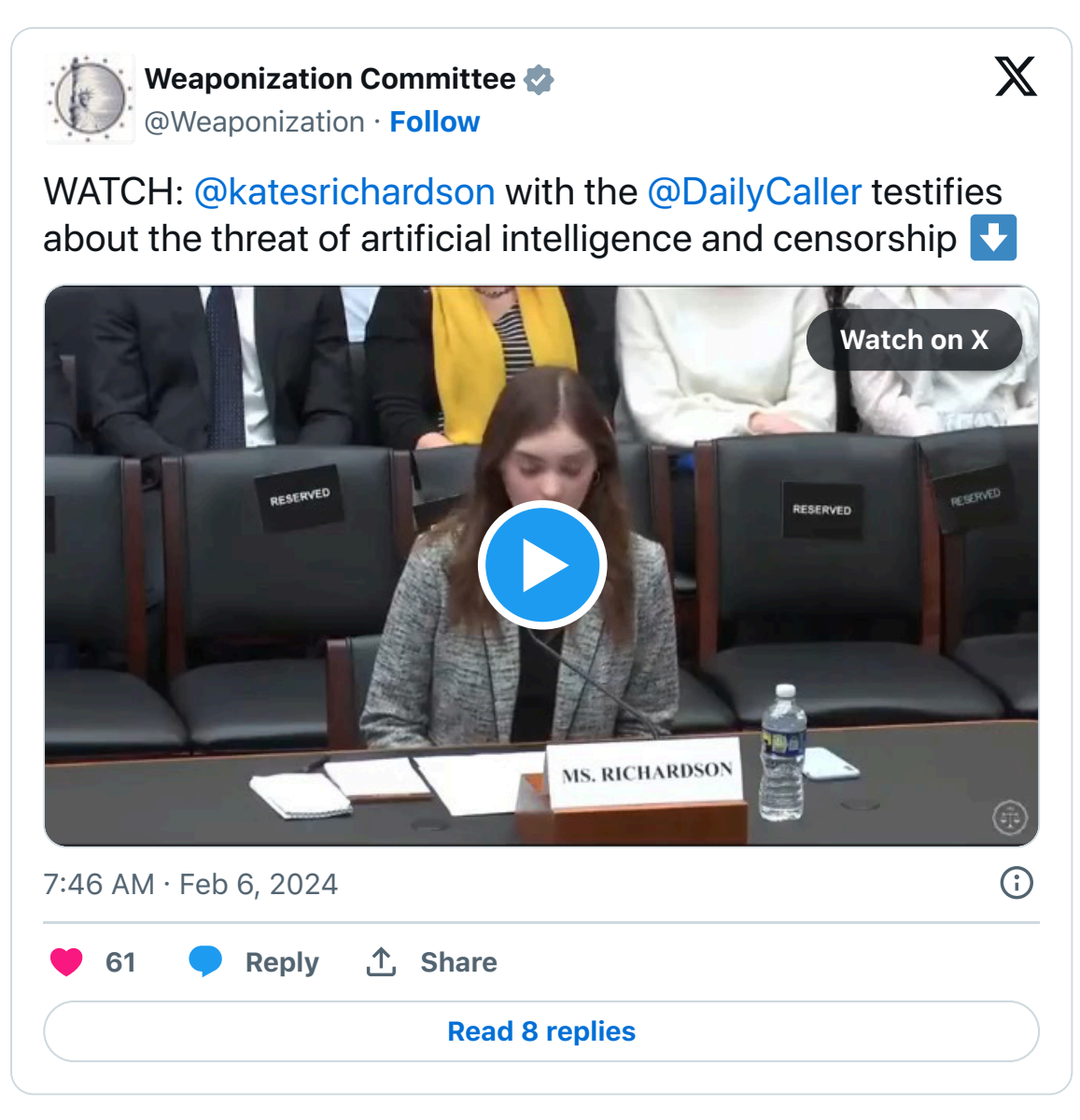
'The government is not the arbiter of truth'

Tuesday's hearing, which built on the contents of the interim report, quickly turned contentious.

"They're going to put your tax dollars into developing software to censor your speech," Jordan said. "AI, which can censor in real time and at scale, should scare us all."

But according to the Daily Caller, ranking member Rep. Stacey Plaskett (D-V.I.) "spent nearly seven minutes … to warn about the 'dictatorial' threat supposedly posed by former President Donald Trump." Such remarks were echoed by other Democrat members of the subcommittee, and by Eisen, the sole witness for the Democrats.

Some of the interim report's findings were released by the Daily Caller News Foundation in February 2023. In her testimony Tuesday, Richardson said her investigation revealed "a multi-million dollar effort to build … a Censorship Industrial Complex, using taxpayer dollars as seed funding for various projects."



Weaponization Committee
@Weaponization · Follow

WATCH: @katesrichardson with the @DailyCaller testifies about the threat of artificial intelligence and censorship ⬇️

7:46 AM · Feb 6, 2024

61 Reply Share

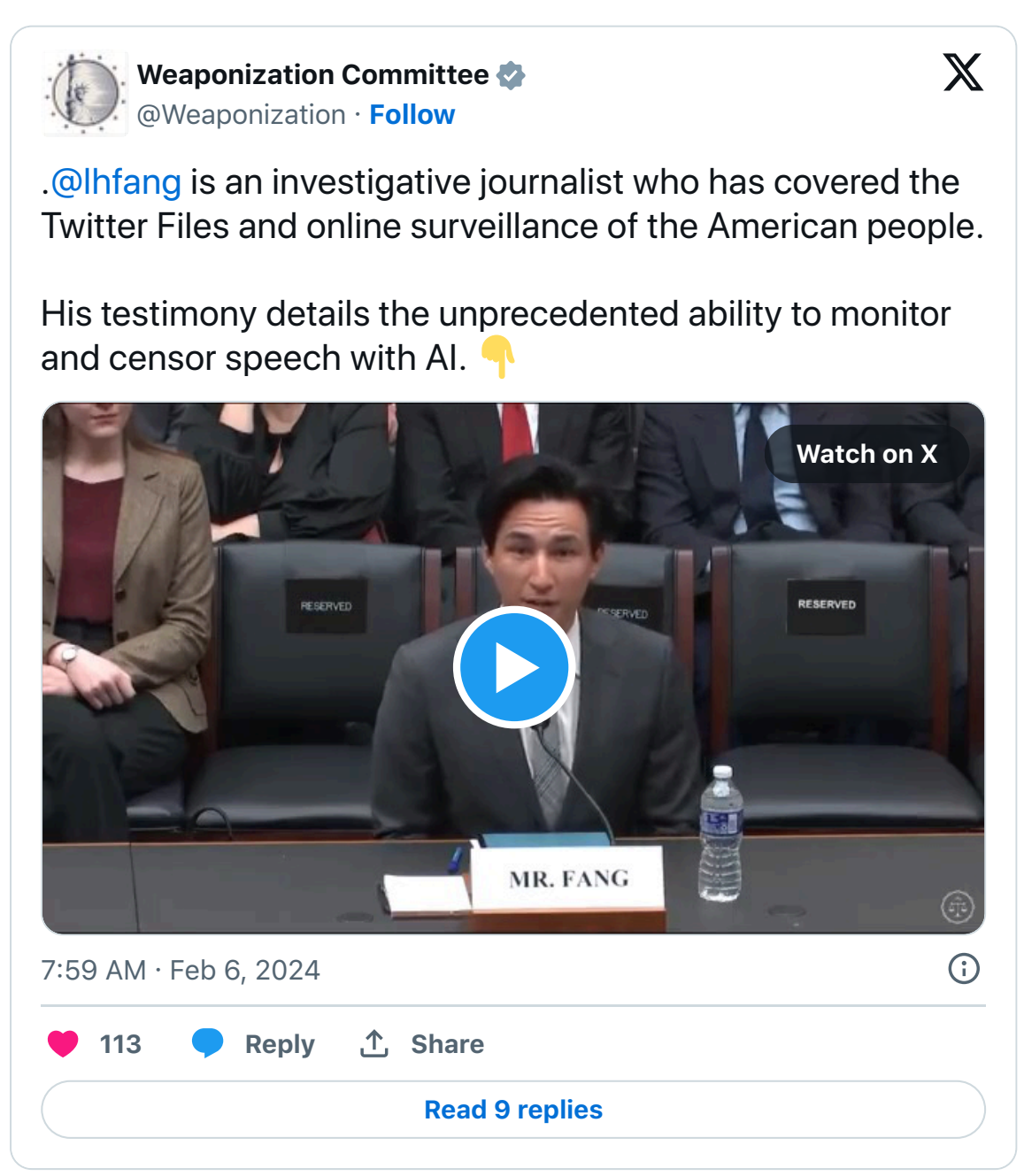
Read 8 replies

"The effort fits within the broader trend of the federal government's increasing involvement in online censorship, from the Centers for Disease Control flagging posts during COVID-19 to the FBI working with social media companies to suppress the Hunter Biden laptop story," she said.

Richardson also said:

> "The government is not the arbiter of truth. Our founders understood this, which is why we have a First Amendment. They understood the danger of the government telling people what they should believe and targeting opinions that cut against the official narrative. Pursuing information control by funding outside organizations is no less a threat to free speech and freedom of the press than a tyrannical government."

Fang, in his testimony, said his investigative reports have "shed light on private entities' attempts to control and curtail public discourse on major areas of public policy."



Weaponization Committee
@Weaponization · Follow

.@lhfang is an investigative journalist who has covered the Twitter Files and online surveillance of the American people.

His testimony details the unprecedented ability to monitor and censor speech with AI. 👇

7:59 AM · Feb 6, 2024

113 Reply Share

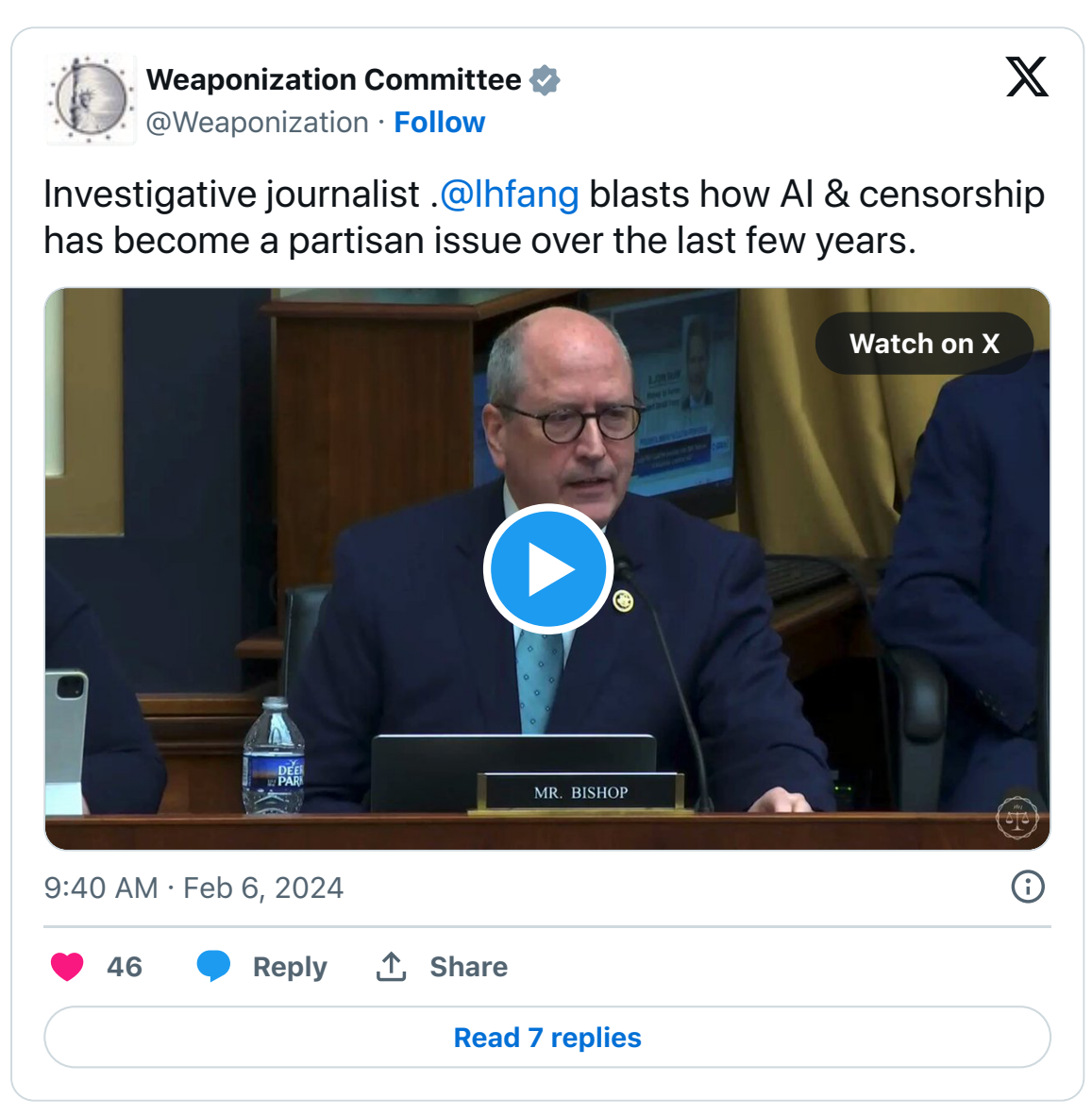
Read 9 replies

These efforts included the Public Good Projects — funded by "biopharma lobbyists that represent Moderna and Pfizer" — who "collaborated with Twitter during the pandemic to censor specific social media accounts because of their criticism of establishment views around COVID-19 vaccines while amplifying accounts supportive of vaccines and government viewpoints," Fang said.

Fang, who previously released "Twitter Files" documents, said the Public Good Projects are continuing "efforts to influence vaccine discourse," working with Moderna and AI firm Talkwalker "to monitor vaccine-related conversations across 150 million websites."

He also highlighted Logically, a British AI firm that received contracts from the U.K. government "to combat misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic" and partnered with Meta "to automatically suppress and label content they deemed as misinformation."

Noting that censorship "affects dissenting voices of all ideological stripes," Fang "implore[d] this committee to rise above partisanship and treat the threat posed by online surveillance and censorship as an American issue, affecting all of us equally."



Weaponization Committee
@Weaponization · Follow

Investigative journalist @lhfang blasts how AI & censorship has become a partisan issue over the last few years.

9:40 AM · Feb 6, 2024

46 Reply Share

Read 7 replies

Michael Rectenwald, Ph.D., author of "Google Archipelago: The Digital Gulag and the Simulation of Freedom," told The Defender that "In the hands of the state, AI represents a sure path to totalitarianism," adding that "AI is code primarily designed to target certain viewpoints deemed by its writers to be 'false' or 'harmful.'"

Attorney Richard Jaffe told The Defender "The government shouldn't be in the business of regulating the content or viewpoint of speech, certainly not about something as fast-changing and uncertain like COVID, [and] shouldn't be in the business of funding private entities to develop more efficient tools [that are] doing the censoring."

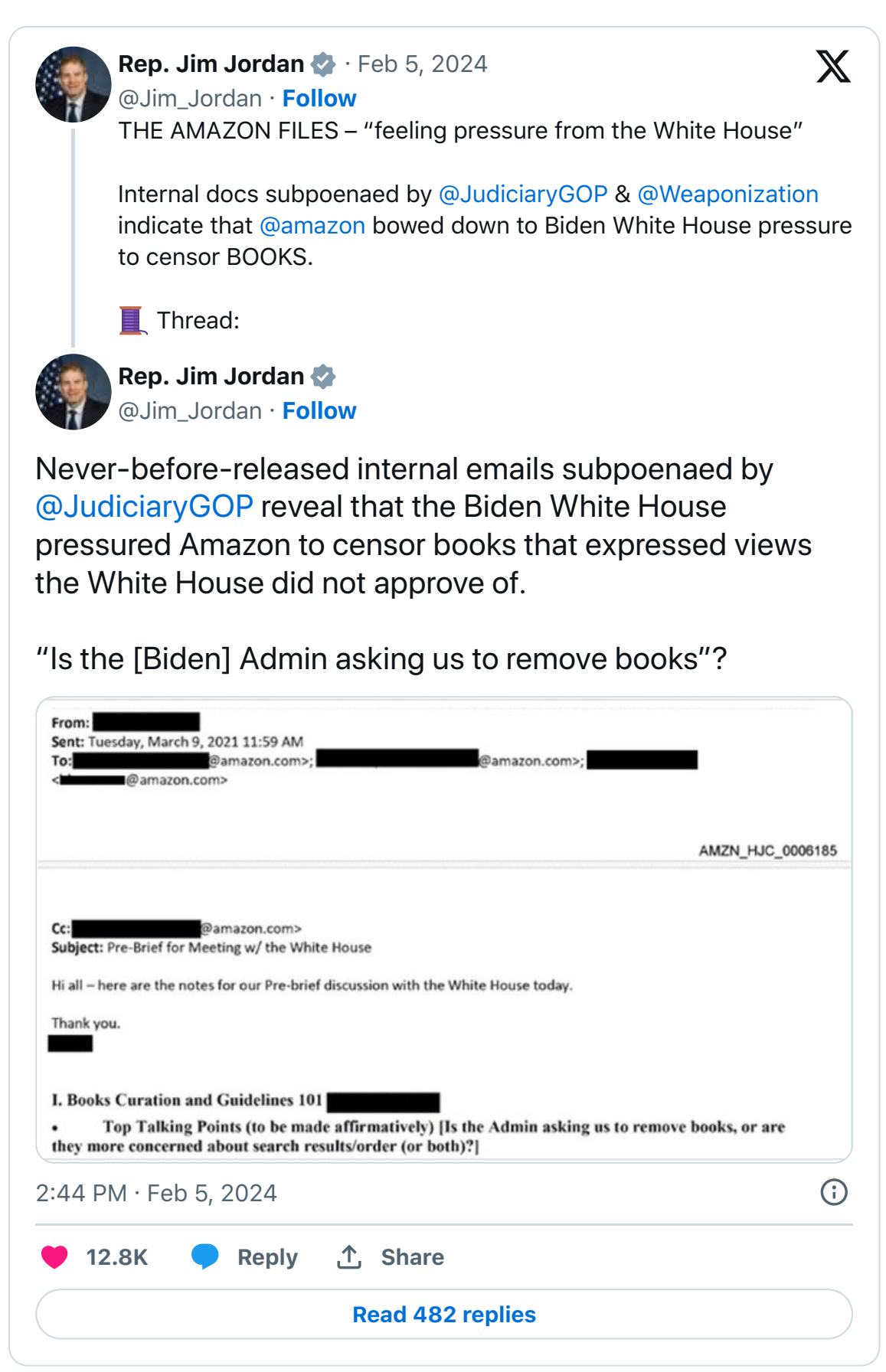
Your support helps fund this work, and CHD's related advocacy, education and scientific research.

DONATE NOW

White House complained about 'high levels' of 'misinformation' on Amazon

On Monday, Jordan released the "Amazon Files" in a thread on X. According to his revelations, the Biden administration pressured Amazon to censor books critical of COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy and the company "bowed down" to this pressure.

The documents, which the House Judiciary Committee obtained via subpoena, included a March 2021 internal email from Amazon questioning whether the Biden administration was "asking us to remove books."



Rep. Jim Jordan · Feb 5, 2024
@Jim_Jordan · Follow
THE AMAZON FILES – "feeling pressure from the White House"

Internal docs subpoenaed by @JudiciaryGOP & @Weaponization indicate that @amazon bowed down to Biden White House pressure to censor BOOKS.

🧵 Thread:

Rep. Jim Jordan
@Jim_Jordan · Follow

Never-before-released internal emails subpoenaed by @JudiciaryGOP reveal that the Biden White House pressured Amazon to censor books that expressed views the White House did not approve of.

"Is the [Biden] Admin asking us to remove books"?

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 11:59 AM
To: [redacted]@amazon.com>; [redacted]@amazon.com>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@amazon.com>

AMZN_HJC_0006185

Cc: [redacted]@amazon.com>
Subject: Pre-Brief for Meeting w/ the White House

Hi all – here are the notes for our Pre-brief discussion with the White House today.

Thank you.
[redacted]

I. Books Curation and Guidelines 101 [redacted]
- Top Talking Points (to be made affirmatively) [Is the Admin asking us to remove books, or are they more concerned about search results/order (or both)?]

2:44 PM · Feb 5, 2024

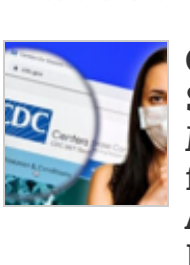
12.8K Reply Share

Read 482 replies

These requests came from Andy Slavitt, the White House's former COVID-19 adviser, who is implicated in the "Twitter Files." In March 2021, he contacted

Donate Now
You make the difference.

Latest News

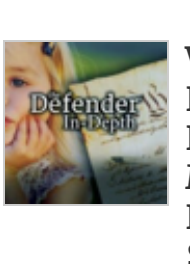

CDC's Own Scientists Found Masks Ineffective for COVID — But Agency Recommended Them Anyway

5 Takeaways From This Week's Testimony in Landmark Fluoride Trial

Glyphosate Exposure During Pregnancy Raises Child's Risk of Poor Brain Function

MORE NEWS

Latest Views


Watch: Lawyer, Plaintiffs in Rockland County Measles Lockdown Lawsuit Discuss $750,000 Settlement

Why Pregnant Women Should Take Drastic Steps to Lower EMF Exposure During Pregnancy

Government Censorship Isn't New — But It's Getting More Personal

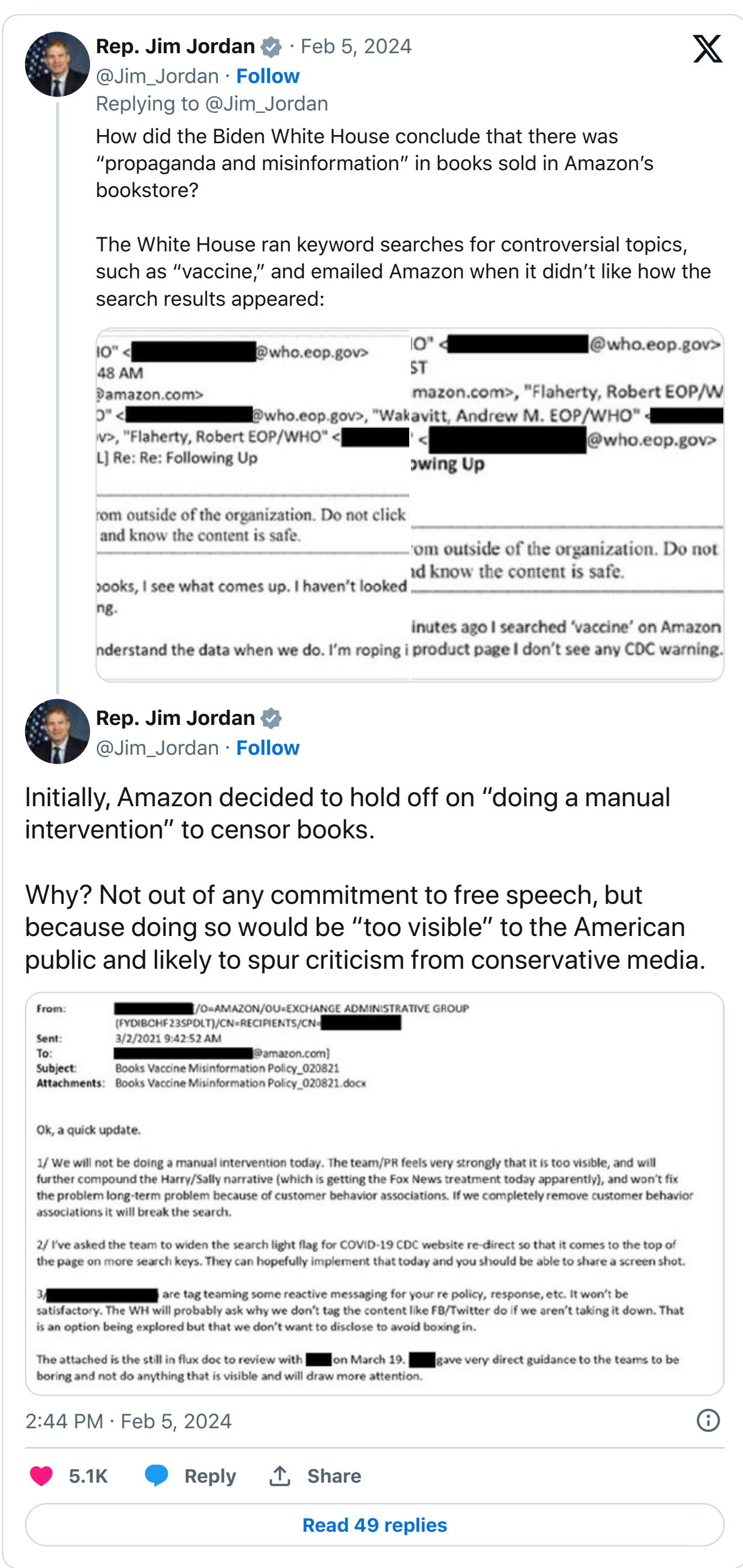
MORE VIEWS

Get FREE News & Updates!

First Name..
Last Name..
Email..
SIGN UP

Get Text Alerts
Sign up for breaking news from The Defender.
Currently only eligible for numbers in the U.S. and Canada.
1234567890
Phone
REQUIRED. Phone number must be in a standard 10-digit format: 1234567890 or 123-456-7890
CONTINUE

adviser, who is implicated in the "Twitter Files." In March 2021, he contacted Amazon about "the high levels of propaganda and misinformation and disinformation of Amazon."



Rep. Jim Jordan · Feb 5, 2024
@Jim_Jordan · Follow
Replying to @Jim_Jordan

How did the Biden White House conclude that there was "propaganda and misinformation" in books sold in Amazon's bookstore?

The White House ran keyword searches for controversial topics, such as "vaccine," and emailed Amazon when it didn't like how the search results appeared:

IO" <[redacted]@who.eop.gov>
48 AM
@amazon.com>
O" <[redacted]@who.eop.gov>, "Wakavitt, Andrew M. EOP/WHO" <[redacted]
v>, "Flaherty, Robert EOP/WHO" <[redacted]
L] Re: Re: Following Up

rom outside of the organization. Do not click
and know the content is safe.

books, I see what comes up. I haven't looked
ng.

nderstand the data when we do. I'm roping i

IO" <[redacted]@who.eop.gov>
ST
mazon.com>, "Flaherty, Robert EOP/W
' <[redacted]@who.eop.gov>
owing Up

om outside of the organization. Do not
d know the content is safe.

inutes ago I searched 'vaccine' on Amazon
product page I don't see any CDC warning.

Rep. Jim Jordan
@Jim_Jordan · Follow

Initially, Amazon decided to hold off on "doing a manual intervention" to censor books.

Why? Not out of any commitment to free speech, but because doing so would be "too visible" to the American public and likely to spur criticism from conservative media.

From: [redacted]/O=AMAZON/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[redacted]
Sent: 3/2/2021 9:42:52 AM
To: [redacted]@amazon.com]
Subject: Books Vaccine Misinformation Policy_020821
Attachments: Books Vaccine Misinformation Policy_020821.docx

Ok, a quick update.

1/ We will not be doing a manual intervention today. The team/PR feels very strongly that it is too visible, and will further compound the Harry/Sally narrative (which is getting the Fox News treatment today apparently), and won't fix the problem long-term problem because of customer behavior associations. If we completely remove customer behavior associations it will break the search.

2/ I've asked the team to widen the search light flag for COVID-19 CDC website re-direct so that it comes to the top of the page on more search keys. They can hopefully implement that today and you should be able to share a screen shot.

3/ [redacted] are tag teaming some reactive messaging for your re policy, response, etc. It won't be satisfactory. The WH will probably ask why we don't tag the content like FB/Twitter do if we aren't taking it down. That is an option being explored but that we don't want to disclose to avoid boxing in.

The attached is the still in flux doc to review with [redacted] on March 19. [redacted] gave very direct guidance to the teams to be boring and not do anything that is visible and will draw more attention.

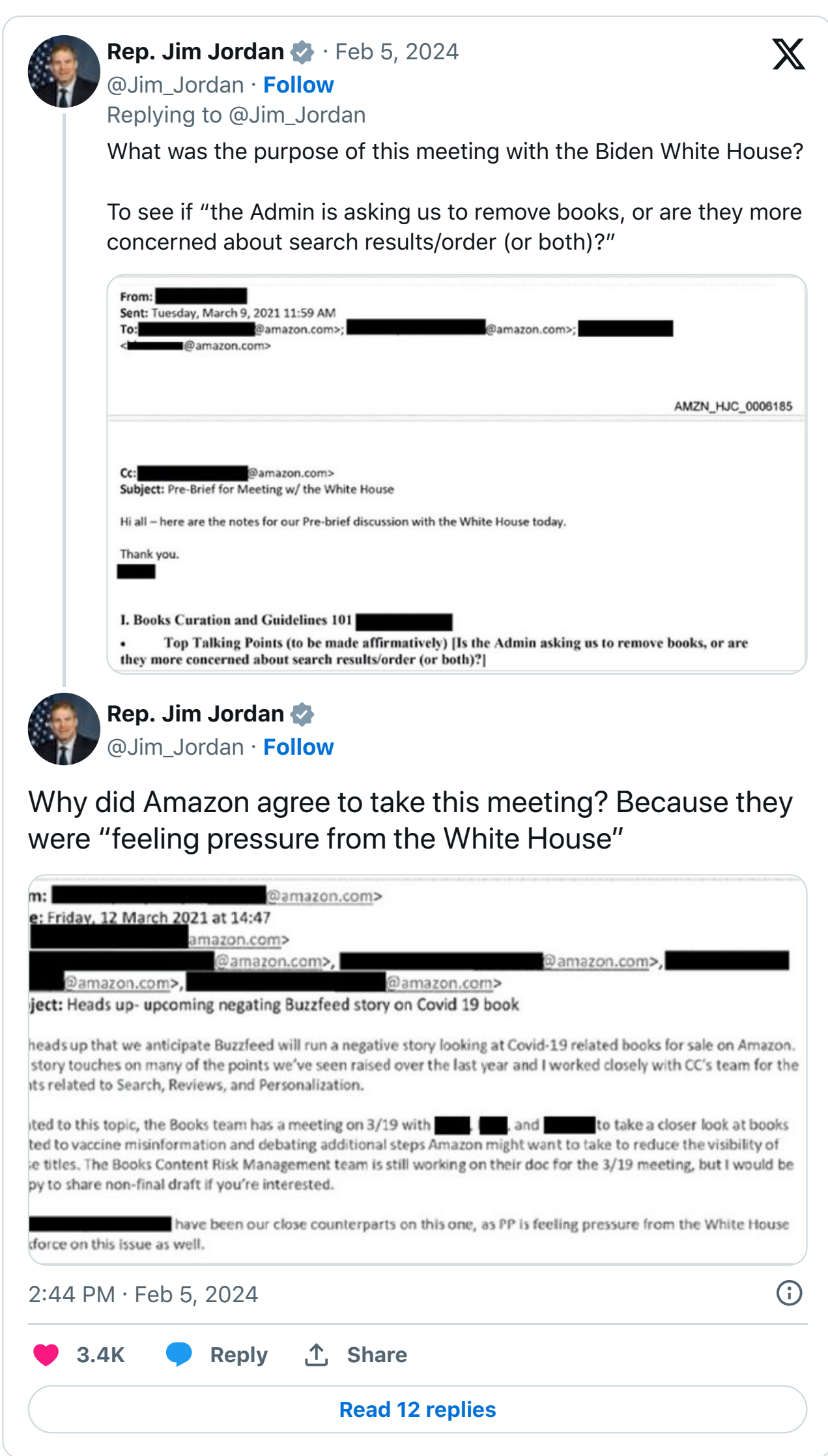
2:44 PM · Feb 5, 2024

5.1K Reply Share

Read 49 replies

Amazon initially decided not to perform "a manual intervention" to target specific books available on its platform — on the basis that such an action would be "too visible" to the public and because "retailers are different than social media communities."

By March 9, 2021, though, Amazon representatives met with White House officials, according to Jordan, who cited an internal Amazon email stating that the company was "feeling pressure from the White House."



Rep. Jim Jordan · Feb 5, 2024
@Jim_Jordan · Follow
Replying to @Jim_Jordan

What was the purpose of this meeting with the Biden White House?

To see if "the Admin is asking us to remove books, or are they more concerned about search results/order (or both)?"

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 11:59 AM
To: [redacted]@amazon.com>; [redacted]@amazon.com>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@amazon.com>

AMZN_HJC_0006185

Cc: [redacted]@amazon.com>
Subject: Pre-Brief for Meeting w/ the White House

Hi all – here are the notes for our Pre-brief discussion with the White House today.

Thank you.
[redacted]

I. Books Curation and Guidelines 101 [redacted]
- Top Talking Points (to be made affirmatively) [Is the Admin asking us to remove books, or are they more concerned about search results/order (or both)?]

Rep. Jim Jordan
@Jim_Jordan · Follow

Why did Amazon agree to take this meeting? Because they were "feeling pressure from the White House"

m: [redacted]@amazon.com>
e: Friday, 12 March 2021 at 14:47
[redacted]amazon.com>
[redacted]@amazon.com>, [redacted]@amazon.com>, [redacted]
@amazon.com>, [redacted]@amazon.com>
ject: Heads up- upcoming negating Buzzfeed story on Covid 19 book

heads up that we anticipate Buzzfeed will run a negative story looking at Covid-19 related books for sale on Amazon. story touches on many of the points we've seen raised over the last year and I worked closely with CC's team for the its related to Search, Reviews, and Personalization.

ited to this topic, the Books team has a meeting on 3/19 with [redacted], [redacted], and [redacted] to take a closer look at books ted to vaccine misinformation and debating additional steps Amazon might want to take to reduce the visibility of e titles. The Books Content Risk Management team is still working on their doc for the 3/19 meeting, but I would be py to share non-final draft if you're interested.

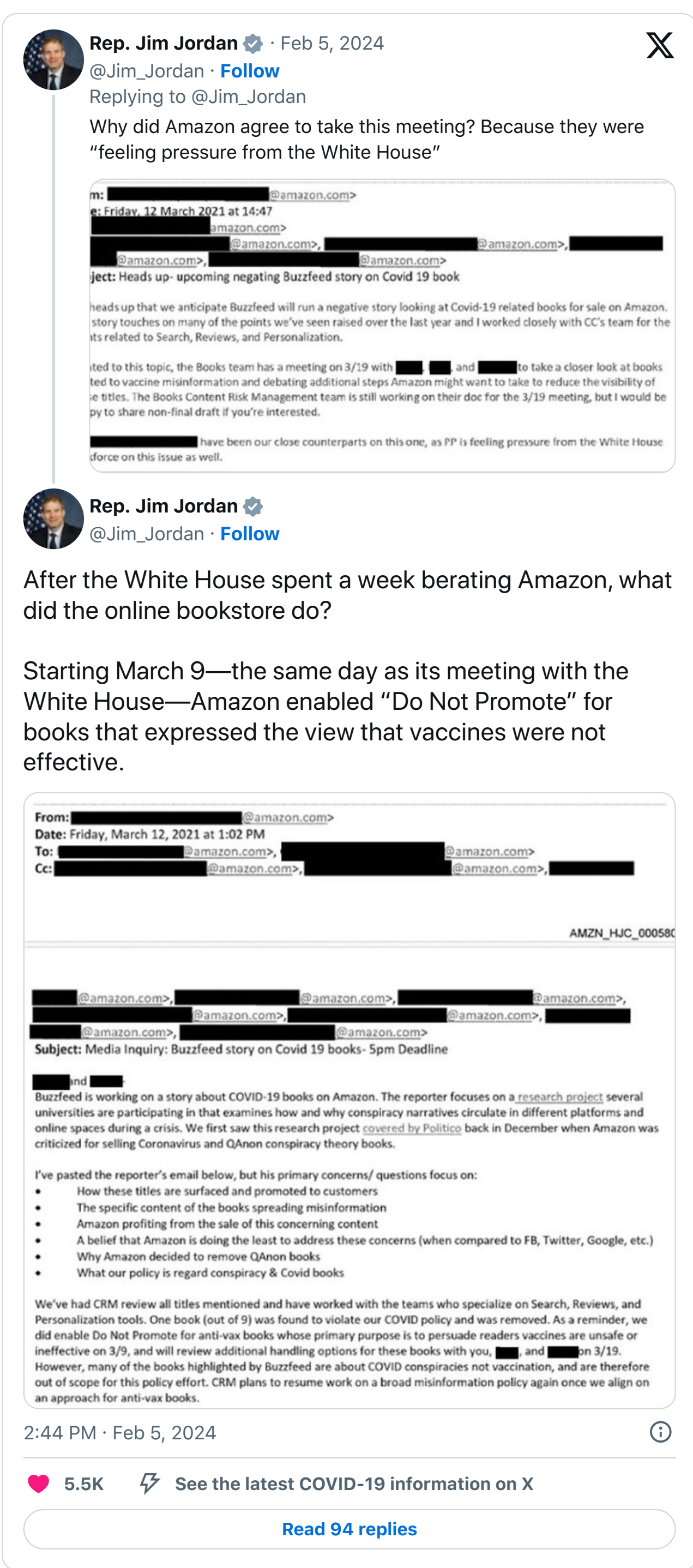
[redacted] have been our close counterparts on this one, as PP is feeling pressure from the White House force on this issue as well.

2:44 PM · Feb 5, 2024

3.4K Reply Share

Read 12 replies

On the same day as the meeting, "Amazon enabled 'Do Not Promote' for books that expressed the view that vaccines were not effective," Jordan wrote, adding that the company also "considered other ways 'to reduce the visibility'" of the books in question.



Rep. Jim Jordan · Feb 5, 2024
@Jim_Jordan · Follow
Replying to @Jim_Jordan

Why did Amazon agree to take this meeting? Because they were "feeling pressure from the White House"

m: [redacted]@amazon.com>
e: Friday, 12 March 2021 at 14:47
[redacted]amazon.com>
[redacted]@amazon.com>, [redacted]@amazon.com>, [redacted]
@amazon.com>, [redacted]@amazon.com>
ject: Heads up- upcoming negating Buzzfeed story on Covid 19 book

heads up that we anticipate Buzzfeed will run a negative story looking at Covid-19 related books for sale on Amazon. story touches on many of the points we've seen raised over the last year and I worked closely with CC's team for the its related to Search, Reviews, and Personalization.

ited to this topic, the Books team has a meeting on 3/19 with [redacted], [redacted], and [redacted] to take a closer look at books ted to vaccine misinformation and debating additional steps Amazon might want to take to reduce the visibility of e titles. The Books Content Risk Management team is still working on their doc for the 3/19 meeting, but I would be py to share non-final draft if you're interested.

[redacted] have been our close counterparts on this one, as PP is feeling pressure from the White House force on this issue as well.

Rep. Jim Jordan
@Jim_Jordan · Follow

After the White House spent a week berating Amazon, what did the online bookstore do?

Starting March 9—the same day as its meeting with the White House—Amazon enabled "Do Not Promote" for books that expressed the view that vaccines were not effective.

From: [redacted]@amazon.com>
Date: Friday, March 12, 2021 at 1:02 PM
To: [redacted]@amazon.com>, [redacted]@amazon.com>
Cc: [redacted]@amazon.com>, [redacted]@amazon.com>, [redacted]

AMZN_HJC_00058

[redacted]@amazon.com>, [redacted]@amazon.com>, [redacted]@amazon.com>,
[redacted]@amazon.com>, [redacted]@amazon.com>, [redacted]
[redacted]@amazon.com>, [redacted]@amazon.com>
Subject: Media Inquiry: Buzzfeed story on Covid 19 books- 5pm Deadline

[redacted] and [redacted]
Buzzfeed is working on a story about COVID-19 books on Amazon. The reporter focuses on a research project several universities are participating in that examines how and why conspiracy narratives circulate in different platforms and online spaces during a crisis. We first saw this research project covered by Politico back in December when Amazon was criticized for selling Coronavirus and QAnon conspiracy theory books.

I've pasted the reporter's email below, but his primary concerns/ questions focus on:
- How these titles are surfaced and promoted to customers
- The specific content of the books spreading misinformation
- Amazon profiting from the sale of this concerning content
- A belief that Amazon is doing the least to address these concerns (when compared to FB, Twitter, Google, etc.)
- Why Amazon decided to remove QAnon books
- What our policy is regard conspiracy & Covid books

We've had CRM review all titles mentioned and have worked with the teams who specialize on Search, Reviews, and Personalization tools. One book (out of 9) was found to violate our COVID policy and was removed. As a reminder, we did enable Do Not Promote for anti-vax books whose primary purpose is to persuade readers vaccines are unsafe or ineffective on 3/9, and will review additional handling options for these books with you, [redacted], and [redacted] on 3/19. However, many of the books highlighted by Buzzfeed are about COVID conspiracies not vaccination, and are therefore out of scope for this policy effort. CRM plans to resume work on a broad misinformation policy again once we align on an approach for anti-vax books.

2:44 PM · Feb 5, 2024

5.5K See the latest COVID-19 information on X

Read 94 replies

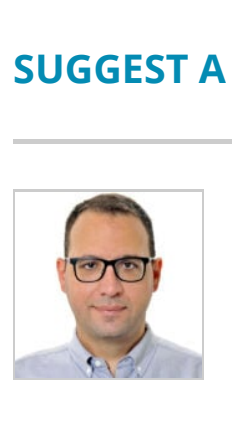
Rosenberg said the "Amazon Files" are "concerning" and "deeply disturbing, both as a lawyer and as a U.S. citizen."

The Defender on occasion posts content related to Children's Health Defense's nonprofit mission that features Mr. Kennedy's views on the issues CHD and The Defender regularly cover. In keeping with Federal Election Commission rules, this content does not represent an endorsement of Mr. Kennedy, who is on leave from CHD and is running as an independent for president of the U.S.

Subscribe to The Defender – It's Free!

First Name.. Last Name.. Email.. SIGN UP

SUGGEST A CORRECTION



Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D.

Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D., based in Athens, Greece, is a senior reporter for The Defender and part of the rotation of hosts for CHD.TV's "Good Morning CHD."

Sign up for free news and updates from Children's Health Defense. CHD focuses on legal strategies to defend the health of our children and obtain justice for those injured. We can't do it without your support.

Republishing Guidelines

Children's Health Defense Comment Policy

We welcome relevant and respectful comments. Off-topic comments may be removed.
Please read our Comment Policy before commenting.

Got it

30 Comments 1 Login

Join the discussion…

LOG IN WITH OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?

Name

7 • Share Best Newest Oldest

holisticpoet
3 days ago

Fact checkers rely on information that is presented to them as truth while excluding most if not all information that is contrary. The problem with that is that science is a moving target. What scientist believed at one time is usually found out later not to be true. Solidifying science like this only stagnates man by not allowing the free flow of ideas that lead to a more enlightened society.

For example, what if we still believed that the Earth is the center of the universe and everything else revolves around it? What if we still believed that the Earth is flat? What if we still believed that the atom is the smallest particle? We need the free flow of ideas and perception to find the season in which we were born to live.

13 0 Reply • Share ›

BraveNewWhirled → holisticpoet
3 days ago

Innovation and progress come from the free and open exchange of ideas.

4 0 Reply • Share ›

BH387 → holisticpoet
3 days ago edited

Ah, but the belief in the anti-spiritual religion of Scientism is far, far more dangerous than geocentric or flat Earth beliefs.

4 0 Reply • Share ›

djr
3 days ago

AI is only as 'intelligent' as its creators program it to be, which means that it will do whatever it is programmed to do. It can be used as a tool that can benefit humanity or it can be used for total control and authoritarianism. It seems the Biden regime has chosen authoritarianism, modeled after the blueprint for all such globalists, China.

10 0 Reply • Share ›

Ricky Ricardo
3 days ago edited

Youtube (Google) is changing their login page. They claim that it will be a "new look". I smell some (more) nefariousness coming! They have new algorithms for their ads that are beginning to bypass ad blockers. That's okay...I've downloaded enough content that I will be just fine without them. I have many music videos and enough movies to watch 3 different ones each day for more than a year; not to mention all the Plandemic and "Climate Change" content (and many related topics; 5G, A.I., IoT's, etc.) that I have in my main library.

10 0 Reply • Share ›

lanainutahdesert → Ricky Ricardo
3 days ago

I'm with you. I'm so sick and tired of the blatant efforts to squeeze their ads into my consciousness. Amazon is doing the same thing. I can still block all ads on YouTube with my ad blocker. But I can see that going by the wayside, too. If I "like and subscribe" I donate to keep the people going and I figure that's fair. Ads were the reason that I cut the cable cord five years ago; I just couldn't take it any longer. And I, too, have enough content to last a long time. Plus, thank God, I read and have dozens of books.

6 0 Reply • Share ›

Ricky Ricardo → lanainutahdesert
2 days ago

I also have my Yamaha electronic keyboard, acoustic/electric guitar, alto and tenor saxes...never seen any advertising pop up on any of them!

2 0 Reply • Share ›

lanainutahdesert → Ricky Ricardo
a day ago

Not in my books, either! :)

2 0 Reply • Share ›

Beatrice → lanainutahdesert
2 days ago

I love my books, museums and libraries. I too hate advertising in all forms and avoid looking at it or listening to it.

I found my old Technics turntable and I'm now listening to my old records and I have lots of wonderful TV series on DVD that go back to the 70's. Big tech will never win me over because I've never been dependent on or addicted to their platforms. My life is a heartbeat, not an app.

2 0 Reply • Share ›

lanainutahdesert → Beatrice
2 days ago

Good for you!! Let's hope that everyone feels the same!

1 0 Reply • Share ›

catherine
3 days ago

The terrifying reality is that when you mock God and believe you are your only authority, you can do nothing else but evil. Biden is one of those people. And when they are given power and authority they use it not only to firstly benefit themselves, but always turn into tyrants and and work tirelessly while they have this power to harm untold numbers of people.

10 0 Reply • Share ›

Patpat
3 days ago

Mark Crispin Miller is spot on... this is the merger of the state apparatus and corporations, also known as fascism, in its true and original definition.

9 0 Reply • Share ›

lanainutahdesert → Patpat
3 days ago

It is but it's certainly not new. Big Business, Legacy Media, and the State have been fused together for many decades. What's more recent is the fact that they now come under the umbrella of National Security forming a National Security State-- it's this entity that must have absolute control over everything we see, read, and think. We'll see this, full-blown, by 2030, or when Central Banking Digital Currency takes effect and hard cash no longer exists.

2 0 Reply • Share ›

tony → lanainutahdesert
2 days ago

Pretty sure you just described Fascism

3 0 Reply • Share ›

Voyt Regnal
3 days ago

AI will not shut us down. People will go back to printing and distributing uncensored news and information, resisting 'occupation'. We are at war with our own governments.

7 0 Reply • Share ›

A. Miller
3 days ago

It's time to wake up and grow some nads. Biden is just a corrupt stooge. It's time to name the names of the people behind the overthrow of the USA. It's time to out them.

6 0 Reply • Share ›

tony → A. Miller
2 days ago

Look no further than the alphabet agency that starts with a C and ends with an A. They have always been the strong arm of the worlds largest banks who are hell bent on a one world government with a single currency for total control. It was evident after WW2 that the bankers needed to subvert the American way of life from within to create a government who could be corrupt enough to control. Seems they've done a pretty good job. Note that their first major job was to try and remove God from the hearts & minds of otherwise good people.

4 0 Reply • Share ›

Rob DF
3 days ago edited

Search, social media etc. has been absolute garbage for at least a decade now for anyone who's been paying attention. They've now just stopped even bothering to hide it.

5 0 Reply • Share ›

Steven Berge → Rob DF
2 days ago

There are alternatives to Google, Facebook, X, etc. I think maybe it's time I checked out the dark web. The establishment is trying to make it "scary."

1 0 Reply • Share ›

Beatrice → Rob DF
2 days ago

More than a decade. I'm offline most of the time now and I don't use a cell phone. When I watched/listened to the recent hearings regarding online safety for children, I realized just what a waste of time those hearings are- nothing but theater. There is NO WAY to protect a child on social media or on any digital device or platform. You may want to believe that parental controls provide some level of safety or that an age requirement will help but that's not true at all. The fact is that none of us is safe on any digital device. Anything digital can be hacked. You should not have a SIM card in your phone at all!!! you should not use any email that doesn't have end to end encryption and even then, it may not be safe enough forever.

I don't want to spend my life monitoring my accounts and credit reports every day, worrying about someone selling my personal data, someone stealing passwords, someone installing ransomware on my computers, someone censoring my speech etc.. I don't want to spend time maintaining devices, etc... So, I unplug when I'm finished typing and I only check my email twice a day- very quickly and if need to respond, I use my landline to call the recipient. I would strongly recommend that everyone make an effort to restore and protect their freedom by rebelling against this tyranny by not using your devices unless absolutely necessary.

1 0 Reply • Share ›

BH387
3 days ago edited

Fine. Let 'em stew in their cesspool of BS while we create our own networks. Being healthier and stronger than the deluded lemmings, we will thrive, as they dive. Maybe that's even the *real* endgame.

4 0 Reply • Share ›

Steven Berge → BH387
2 days ago

They will use the lemmings against us. Notice how abusive the police are getting with protesters. They've even labeled the "Cop City" peaceful protesters "terrorists" which will make them subject to decades of prison. And they also shot one to death in his sleep.

1 0 Reply • Share ›

Beatrice
2 days ago

I'm convinced that our extremely demented president, Joe Biden, his air head VP Harris and the rest of his silly administration were deliberately chosen by the WH the WHO and the WEF because they knew they would easily comply with ALL of their evil woke agendas. After what Biden has done to the primaries in America, it's plain obvious that our elections are manipulated by our own and not by any other country. Remember too that when Trump was president they called him mentally ill, dangerous and feeble because he carefully walked down a slippery ramp ONE day. Every day the MSM talked about how unfit Trump was. But these same people don't believe that Biden and his administration have mental issues? They continuously lie to and gaslight the citizens, they have deployed the most draconian and undemocratic policies of any admin in my lifetime. I thought GWB was bad enough but Biden's term has been exponentially worse and has literally destroyed America.

3 0 Reply • Share ›

Rbrtll
3 days ago

They are tyrants, plain and simple!

3 0 Reply • Share ›

E_via
3 days ago

Excellent reporting! Not surprisingly the MSM is silent about this too other than the incessant hysteria over Trump, Trump, Trump. Absolutely unhinged, and dangerous too.

3 0 Reply • Share ›

tony
2 days ago

Anyone not believe our government is at war with us? I cannot have a conversation with anyone who believes otherwise

2 0 Reply • Share ›

A. Miller
7 hours ago

Do some investigative reporting instead of referring to Biden or his administration. Biden is a VEGETABLE! He's not running anything. The public does need to know the names of the billionaires and evil geniuses behind these policy decisions. This will be reporting.

0 0 Reply • Share ›

jann
11 hours ago edited

Not only COVID but Ukraine info was also censored. Several months ago, Mike Adams interviewed an author of a book that included a section on Ukraine that Amazon quietly made unavailable. Buying from Amazon does nothing but support this tyranny. Knowing how willing colleges are to take kickbacks is a good reason to stay away from them.
Great reporting, Michael! Apparently, not on Fox is reporting on this hearing.

0 0 Reply • Share ›

r2bzjudge
a day ago

On the same day as the meeting, "Amazon enabled 'Do Not Promote' for books that expressed the view that vaccines were not effective," Jordan wrote.

The Covid shot wasn't effective, as everyone knows now. It also wasn't safe, as the vaccine injured know now. The White House should not be promoting disinformation.

0 0 Reply • Share ›

r2bzjudge
a day ago

According to the report, University of Michigan researchers told the NSF the WiseDex tool sought to "develop processes that would have public legitimacy [and] which social media platforms could use for taking enforcement action against misinformation,"

Are these platforms going to expose and take action against government disinformation? There is no public legitimacy without exposing government disinformation and taking action against it, such as that coming from the CDC.

People on social media talking about their vaccine injuries or talking about relatives and others who died after a Covid shot were wrongly suppressed, so that others could not learn the truth about how dangerous the Covid shots are. I really have to presume that WiseDex will be used to cover-up the truth when it is inconvenient to the official false narrative.

0 0 Reply • Share ›

Subscribe Privacy Do Not Sell My Data

Children's Health Defense

Children's Health Defense® is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to end childhood health epidemics by working aggressively to eliminate harmful exposures, hold those responsible accountable and establish safeguards to prevent future harm. We fight corruption, mass surveillance and censorship that put profits before people as well as advocate for worldwide rights to health freedom and bodily autonomy.

THE DEFENDER IS AVAILABLE IN:

ENGLISH SPANISH PORTUGUESE GERMAN ITALIAN FRENCH

TAKE ACTION

DONATE FREE SIGN-UP BECOME A MEMBER

Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. EIN #26-0388604

© 2016 - 2024 Children's Health Defense® • All Rights Reserved • Sitemap